Montpelier Tree Board Draft Minutes October 3, 5:30-6:30 Memorial Room, City Hall

Attending: Lynn, Sarah, James, John A, Ken

We did not have a quorum so the meeting was held for informational purposes only.

- **Approval of Agenda –** The agenda was modified to include a segment on the Festival of Trees (Lynn)
- **Approval of July, August, September minutes** (deferred until the November meeting)
- **Comments from the public:** Ken mentioned that New Mexico has banned firewood cutting in state parks to help the endangered Spotted Owl. He expects that decision to be controversial.

- **Old Business:**

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (John A)

Monitoring season is wrapping up. Eight of the ten green traps have been taken down and cleaned for future use. For storage, wax paper has been put over the sides of the traps and we will look into using a heavy grade wax paper as the layer on which the glue will be applied; this may make clean-up much easier in the future. In all, three (3) EAB look-a-likes were isolated and delivered to the State Entomologist, Judy Rosovsky. Initial examination indicated that these were not EAB but they will be sent to an expert for verification and further identification. Two remaining traps will be taken down Friday (Down Home Kitchen and North Branch Nature Center). John A will prepare a brief report on 2019 monitoring activities for the Tree Board and the City Council, probably this month. It would be good to include a section on what ash trees were removed this year by the Parks Department and we will hopefully get that information from Adz (Adam McCullough).

Parks and Trees Department update (Jac via Lynn)

The Parks Department will holding their Enchanted Forest in Hubbard Park on October 12, 2019. They could use help so any volunteers should contact Jac. They also need musicians and any musicians interested in participating should contact Alec. Finally, the Parks Department is considering developing a Food Farm in the City. Alec can be contacted for more information.

Nursery: All Notes from John S

Inventory: With help from Lynn and Adz, the nursery inventory is now about 90% complete; 2 or 3 dozen trees could be easily moved this fall to final location. We just need to find more locations! UES is interested in having kids plant a few more trees on the playground. I'm following up on this.

Water system: The folks who built and manage the community gardens watering system are willing to have us use their water in exchange for a small annual fee (TBD). We can run about 100' of hose to the nursery where we would install a new tank connected to a drip irrigation system. Details remain to be figured out but it all seems workable and much simpler than previous thoughts.

James added that he has a drip irrigation plan and a written record would be kept for each tree. The drip system will need to have a tank at a sufficient elevation to provide the head pressure for the system to work. Alec will be making the calculations as to how high the tank must be. Lynn suggested that am additional water catchment system be set up to feed the tank to supplement the water received from the Community Gardens system. John A suggested the addition of plexiglass supported by "ribs" extending from the tank to double the surface area of the tank to feed water into the tank.

Fall planting: I have about six locations needing to be confirmed. In addition, UES and the Catholic Cemetery are both interested in more trees. I will be putting word out on FPF and FB to solicit more possible locations but would value having each of you also chime in. We should be able to plant through the end of October. In addition Shawn has three property owners in the Clarendon neighborhood who are interested in planting for water quality. Parks is fairly overloaded and short staffed so we need to be realistic about what we can do, perhaps 1-2 dozen trees?

Sarah has a possible planting location on North Street which could possibly receive a Service Berry. Additional planting locations in the vicinity of 1 Heaton Street were mentioned by Lynn. Ken mentioned he would be available this month to help with plantings.

- **New Business**

Festival of Trees

At the Festival of Trees (February 9, 2020) Cassandra Heminway will possibly give have a workshop on Food Scraps to Soils. Lynn envisions the Festival themes to be Living Soil, Healthy Trees, the World Alive. The goal is to show homeowners how this works for them in terms of their environment. Kat Buxton may be contacted to be a speaker regarding Living Soil, Carbon Sequestration and the connection to Climate Changes. The soils workshop would be held in the NBNC Barn, a tree tour with winter tree ID would be at the nursery, and movies would be shown in the main meeting area. Lynn needs at least four folks to help plan this and she mentioned that her compiled volunteer list is still in the works. She asked John A to prepare some information on the home composter he built using an old (almost discarded) 30 gallon plastic garbage can.

The participation of North Branch Nature Center personnel will be sought, possibly to help build public participation through co-sponsoring the Festival and using their membership and program participation mailing lists. They may also be asked to provide some prizes such as a free one-year membership or free passes to some of their outdoor events.

Food will include the themed birthday cake as well as Vegan chili, the latter will be doled out with donations requested. Of course, we will sing Happy Birthday to the trees in several languages.

Workdays: TBD